

by IBS

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Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: Docket WT 11-65** 

**Dear Commissioners:** 

We wanted to take the time to write to you regarding our support for the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile USA.

Our company, Innovative Broadcast Services Corporation (IBS), is a broadcast engineering and consulting company that develops Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) software and hardware used for monitoring and controlling critical processes in several industries including broadcast, public works, entertainment, manufacturing and industrial applications. Our product, Hawk SCADA, is in service in the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada and is generating interest in Central America and Europe. Not only do we use AT&T services in running our small business, but also our clients benefit from AT &T's services as they are incorporated into our SCADA products. A wireless, high-capacity public network is essential for those clients that do not own and operate their own private wireless network. Few have the resources to do so.

For too long, small businesses in our part of the country have lacked access to the kinds of mobile network technology enjoyed by big city residents. Traveling to clients around the state, we often struggle to find a signal strong enough to make a simple wireless call.

In the meantime, our competitors in large cities have mobile networks so sophisticated they actually put payroll, vacation and other personnel information directly on employee smartphones for secure access any time of the day or night. Additionally, urban businesses can use applications supported by high-capacity networks, giving them an edge in production, administration and development.

This is an overlooked manifestation of the "digital divide", noted by previous administrations that never addressed it in any meaningful way. AT&T and T-Mobile's proposal to merge is the first substantial sign of progress in the effort to bridge this gap, and it is long overdue.

When AT&T and T-Mobile merge, they have no intention of sitting on their hands. They will need more customers from areas of the country that do not have state-of-the-art broadband networks, like much of Mississippi.

To sum up, we believe the merger will benefit small businesses like ours. We hope you agree and will support the merger.

Sincerely,

Olen A. Booth

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Melanie Hankins Booth

Hawk SCADA by Innovative Broadcast Services Corporation